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TI Removal of leukocytes from suspensions, esp. blood - by filtration through filter with decreasing pore size gradient.  
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Removal of leukocytes from suspensions is effected by filtration through a filter (I) having a continuous pore structure, in which the pore size decreases in the direction of flow of the suspension.  
Pref. (I) comprises a series of stacked membranes (thinner than 500 microns) and/or foams (thicker than 500 microns), such that the av. pore size decreases from 10-200 (esp. 10-50) microns to 3-20 (esp. 3-15) microns. The membranes and foams may be made of polymers, metals, ceramics, glass and/or composites, pref. polyurethane, polystyrene, or esp. cellulose acetate.  
USE/ADVANTAGE - The process is esp. applicable to blood intended for transfusion into patients with diseases such as leukaemia or chronic anaemia. Compared with conventional symmetric filters, the asymmetric filters of type (I) have a greater capacity for leukocyte removal, with higher blood flow rates and less tendency to become clogged towards the end of a filtration cycle.  
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